

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Martha Flores, I am from Honduras and I have lived in New Britain for 10 years. I am married and have 3 children. I am a member of UACT/Manos Unidas.

I am in support of HB 6616: An Act Concerning the Expansion of HUSKY Health Benefits to those Ineligible Because of Immigration Status.

Quiero contar una de mis tristes historias. Yo padezco de tiroides. Hace muchos años me dijeron que necesitaba un ultrasonido que yo no podía pagar por no tener seguro. Gracias a Dios que en Malta House me ayudaron a hacerme mi ultrasonido pero me dijeron que tenía que buscarme un seguro médico porque los resultados de mi ultrasonido salieron que tenía muchos quistes en mi tiroides. Hace 4 años que no sé cómo está mi tiroides, porque yo no volví a hacerme el ultrasonido que me ordenaron. Me siento estresada porque no sé qué está pasando y tengo miedo de que esos quistes hayan crecido. Es muy estresante, tengo mis hijos y un esposo a quien tengo que cuidar.

I want to tell one of my hard stories. I suffer from thyroid disease. Many years ago I was told I needed an ultrasound which I could not afford because I did not have insurance. Thank God, Malta House helped me get my ultrasound but they told me I had to get insurance because the results of my ultrasound showed that I had many cysts in my thyroid. I haven't known how my thyroid is doing for 4 years because I didn't go back for the ultrasound that was ordered. I feel stressed because I don't know what is going on and I am afraid that these cysts have grown. It is very stressful, I have my children and a husband I have to take care of.

I support HB 6616 and I hope the committee will vote favorably so that we can keep expanding HUSKY for our immigrant communities. Expanding up to age 26 is a step forward but we have to continue advancing so that all ages have access to care.

Thanks for your time,
Martha Flores